

The Athens Post.

THE FLOWERS COLLECTION

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

ATHENS, TENN., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1862.

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The Post.

Athens, Friday, December 26, 1862.

News.

CHATTANOOGA, Dec. 18.—A dispatch published in the Louisville Democrat, dated Nashville, Dec. 10, says Gov. Andrew Johnson is about to issue a proclamation assailing the wealthy rebels of Nashville to the amount of sixty thousand dollars, for the support of the indigent during the winter. The list contains all the prominent rebel sympathizers in the city.

Tennessee bonds sold in New York on the 11th, at 54. Gold was quoted at 30 per cent premium, in Louisville on the 11th, and 30@31 in Cincinnati. New York cotton market firm. Sales 450 bales at 67@67 1/2 for Middling, Uplands. All quiet around Murfreesboro'.

SECOND DISPATCH.

The Yankees left a large number of guns, knapsacks, and a quantity of ammunition in Fredericksburg. They also left about 600 of their dead in and about the town.

Nearly every house was sacked and the contents wantonly destroyed. Every conceivable injury that malice could suggest was resorted to in their retreat across the river. They propped up dead bodies of their soldiers to represent pickets.

Mr. Yeaman, of Kentucky, has offered a resolution in the Yankee Congress, that the policy of emancipation, recommended by Lincoln was not calculated to hasten a restoration of peace, and that it was an assumption of power dangerous to the preservation of free government.

Northern News.

RICHMOND, Dec. 17.—The Enquirer has Northern dates to the 15th.

They acknowledge the battle to have been a desperate one at Fredericksburg, and that the Federal army sustained a heavy loss, though giving no numbers, save a loss of 215 in one division while crossing the river.

They say they were engaged all night removing their dead and wounded.

General Bayard was killed, and Generals Vinton, Kimball, Gibbons and Caldwell wounded.

Meagher was severely wounded, and the Irish brigade suffered terribly.

The Philadelphia Enquirer says, "we hope as we believe, that the great and final struggle of the war is now going on, and that Burnside will throw everything on the hazard, and expend every round of ammunition and every man in an honest and resolute effort to take Richmond, whatever be the result."

PETERSBURG, Dec. 17.—A lady has arrived here who left Norfolk on Monday.

She says the information of Burnside's defeat had the most stunning effect on the Yankees in Norfolk. Our people were greatly elated.

The Yankee accounts say they were permitted to occupy Fredericksburg with but little opposition, but as soon as a large force got across, the rebel Lee opened upon them with two hundred and fifty pieces of artillery, while Stuart got partly in their rear, and poured a murderous fire into the Union ranks. They say such havoc has not been since the war commenced.

They report their loss in killed and wounded at more than twenty thousand. During last week reinforcements were constantly being sent to Suffolk. The report was that Petersburg was to be attacked from Suffolk, while another force was to be landed at City Point, under the protection of iron-clads.

Since Burnside's defeat at Fredericksburg, it is believed the programme has been changed.

Napoleon's Propositions.

A dispatch from Washington to the New York Tribune (which we give for what it is worth) says private advices from one of the most eminent friends of America in France, represent that the recent offer of mediation by Louis Napoleon is there regarded as the expression of a deliberate and matured purpose, from which the Emperor will not recede, and that it is considered a serious blow to the Union cause in Europe, and to the cause of freedom in Europe not less than in America. Republicanism is discouraged, and wears a sadder look, and despotism triumphs in our vision.

New Jersey.

A Federal paper says, the New Jersey members of Congress are preparing resolutions proposing an armistice for six months, on Napoleon's plan.

The Battle at Fredericksburg.

(From the Richmond Dispatch.)

We have already laid before our readers an account of the passage of the Rappahannock by the enemy on Thursday, and the fighting which ensued in and around the town of Fredericksburg. It was anticipated by those unfamiliar with the time to manoeuvre and place in position large bodies of troops, that a general engagement between the two armies would take place on Friday. This expectation was disappointed, and the fighting of that day amounted to little more than preliminary skirmishing for position, most of the fighting being on the part of the slowly advancing columns of the enemy. Before nightfall the firing ceased, and by all parties it was believed that the issue would be fully joined at daybreak on Saturday morning. With this view the divisions of D. H. Hill and Ewell (the latter commanded by General Harby) were ordered up from the extreme right in the direction of Port Royal, and about 9 o'clock on Saturday morning took position to the west of the railroad, near Hamilton's crossing. Before their arrival, however, our line of battle had been formed—the right wing consisting of A. P. Hill's and Taliaferro's divisions, and the left and centre formed by the divisions of Longstreet's corps, and extending to within three-fourths of a mile of Fredericksburg. The line was nearly a semi-circle, and reached about four miles from the extreme left to the right wing.

About 9 o'clock the booming of the first gun was heard at H. Milton's Turn-out, away off to the left, in the direction of the town. In a short time the successive reports of artillery told unmistakably that the ball was opening, and along the whole line of the right wing the troops buckled on their armor for the conflict before them. As the morning wore on, and the fog which had partially obscured the light was lifted from the earth, the cannonading became more general, until about 11 o'clock, when what had before been but occasional report became an uninterrupted roar. So general was this cannonade that an unpracticed ear could scarce distinguish the report of our own from the guns of the enemy.

About 1 o'clock P. M. the long black columns of the enemy, in regular order, were observed moving up from their position near the river, in the direction of our batteries on the hill side, three-fourths of a mile in advance of Hamilton's crossing. As they moved across the wide valley, stretching along between the river and the railroad, one of our batteries away off to the right, opened upon them a fire which was kept up until the head of their column had reached the woods in which our line was formed, when the sharp crack of infantry, first at intervals and then in volleys quickly succeeding each other, was heard and observed from the surrounding hills. At this time the fight at this point had become general and very severe, both sides contesting the ground with more than usual obstinacy. Here and to the left of the right wing the battle raged for perhaps an hour, our troops engaged being A. P. Hill's division and a portion of Early's and Taliaferro's forces. Meanwhile, the enemy's column were observed to falter, and presently to recede, when it very soon became evident that the fire was too warm for them, and that they were yielding and gradually giving way, as our own forces pressed on. For a distance of about one mile they were followed by our men, who then withdrew from the pursuit, and retired to the west side of the railroad, in the woods where the line was first formed. Later in the afternoon, the enemy renewed the attack, which was met with such spirit that it was but faintly sustained, and they again fell back in the direction of the river. This ended the heavy fighting on the right of the line, and the battle was principally fought and won by the troops of Hill's division, aided at times by the other troops of Jackson's corps.

While these operations were going on on the right, Longstreet's corps was hotly engaged with the enemy on the left, immediately in the neighborhood of Fredericksburg. The right of the enemy's line was formed a few hundred yards from the Southern lines of the town, and our forces fronting them were posted on a range of hills about half a mile distant. The fighting at this point was very heavy, and continued throughout the afternoon, during the whole of which time our position was maintained without a reverse, and late in the day the enemy were signally repulsed and driven back into the town.

We were informed that McLaws's division sustained the principal shock of battle on this end of the line.

When darkness drew on the firing of small arms ceased, and the stillness of the night was only occasionally interrupted by the report of heavy guns. The result of the day's bloody work is easily summed up. At every point of attack the enemy were effectually repulsed, and at night our forces slept on their arms on the ground occupied by them in the morning. The number of prisoners taken during the day is variously estimated from 600 to 1,000, and we think will reach the latter figure. Among these are a number of minor officers. In conversation with one of them—a man of more than ordinary intelligence—he stated that Burnside's forces did not exceed 100,000 men, and no confidence is felt among the troops that they will be successful in the struggle now in progress, and which resulted with such decided advantage to our arms on Saturday. He says, that at no time since the war commenced has there been a more despondent feeling among their troops.

On Sunday morning Gen. Lee expressed himself as highly gratified with the result of the previous day's work. He thinks our loss cannot exceed 1,200 in killed and wounded.

General Lee's Official Report of the Crossing of the Rappahannock and the Battle.

The following report of the operations of the army was received Tuesday at the War Department:—

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, December 14th, 1862.

The Honorable Secretary of War, Richmond, Virginia.

Sir—On the night of the 10th inst., the army commenced to throw three bridges over the Rappahannock—two at Fredericksburg, and the third about a mile and a quarter below, near the mouth of Deep Run.

The plan on which Fredericksburg stands is so completely commanded by the hills of Stafford, in possession of the enemy, that no effectual opposition could be offered to the construction of the bridge or the passage of the river, without exposing our troops to the destructive fire of his numerous batteries. Positions were, therefore, selected to oppose his advance after crossing. The narrowness of the Rappahannock, its winding course, and deep bed, afforded opportunity for the construction of bridges beyond the reach of our artillery, and the banks had to be watched by skirmishers. The latter sheltered themselves behind the houses, drove back the working parties of the enemy at the bridges opposite the city; but at the lowest point of crossing, where no shelter could be had, our sharpshooters were themselves driven off, and the completion of the bridge was effected about noon on the 11th.

In the afternoon of that day the enemy's batteries opened upon the city, and by dark had so demolished the houses on the river bank as to deprive our skirmishers of shelter—and, under cover of his guns, he effected a lodgment in the town.

The troops which had so gallantly held their position in the city, under the severe cannonade during the day, resisting the advance of the enemy at every step, were withdrawn during the night, as were also those who, with equal tenacity, had maintained their post at the lowest bridge. Under cover of darkness and a dense fog, on the 12th, a large force passed the river and took position on the right bank, protected by their heavy guns on the left.

The morning of the 13th, his arrangements for attack being completed, about 9 o'clock—the movement veiled by a fog—he advanced boldly in large force against our right wing. Gen. Jackson's corps occupied the right of our line, which rested on the railroad; Gen. Longstreet's left, extending along the heights to the Rappahannock, above Fredericksburg. Gen. Stuart with two brigades of cavalry was posted in the extensive plain on our extreme right.

As soon as the advance of the enemy was discovered through the fog Gen. Stuart, with his accustomed promptness, moved up a section of his horse artillery, which opened with effect upon his flank, and drew upon the gallant Pelham a heavy fire, which he sustained unflinchingly for about two hours. In the meantime the enemy was fiercely encountered by Gen. A. P. Hill's division, forming Gen. Jackson's right, and after an obstinate combat repulsed. During this attack, which was protracted and hotly contested, two of General Hill's brigades were driven back upon our second line.

Gen. Early, with part of his division, being ordered to his support, drove the enemy back from the point of woods he had seized, and pursued him into the plain, until arrested by his artillery. The right of the enemy's column extending beyond Hill's front, encountered the right of Gen. Hood, of Longstreet's corps. The enemy took possession of a small copse in front of Hood, but was quickly dislodged and repulsed with loss.

During the attack on our right the enemy was crossing troops over his bridges at Fredericksburg and passing them in front of Longstreet's line. Soon after his repulse on our right he commenced a series of attacks on our left, with a view of obtaining possession of the heights immediately overlooking the town. These repeated attacks were repulsed in gallant style by the Washington Artillery, under Col. Walton, and a portion of McLaws's division, which occupied these heights.

The last assault was made after dark, when Col. Alexander's Battalion had relieved the Washington Artillery, (whose ammunition had been exhausted) and ended the contest for the day. The enemy was supported in his attacks by the fire of strong batteries of artillery on the right bank of the river, as well as by his numerous heavy batteries on the Stafford heights.

Our loss during the operations, since the movements of the enemy began, amounts to about 1800 killed and wounded. Among the former I regret to report the death of the patriotic soldier and statesman, Brig-Gen'l Thos. R. R. Cobb, who fell upon our left; and among the latter that brave soldier and accomplished gentleman, Brig-Gen'l Maxey Gregg, who was very seriously, and it is feared mortally, wounded during the attack on our right.

The enemy to-day has been apparently engaged in caring for his wounded and burying his dead. His troops are visible in their first position in line of battle, but, with the exception of some desultory cannonading and firing between skirmishers, he has not attempted to renew the attack. About five hundred and fifty prisoners were taken during the engagement, but the full extent of his loss is unknown.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[Official] R. E. LEE, General.

CHAS. MARSHALL, Major and A. D. C.

From Richmond.

RICHMOND, Dec. 17.—Accounts from Fredericksburg represent that the Abolitionists thoroughly sacked the town before crossing the river, and that they left their dead in the streets.

Nigger Regiments.

The Cincinnati Enquirer of the 18th says that a bill is to be introduced into the Yankee House of Representatives authorizing Lincoln to organize negro regiments to serve for the term of seven years.

The Georgia Legislature having adjourned, a paper of that State suggests that the Governor forthwith appoint a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

Fight on Sandy.

The following is copied from the Abingdon Virginian, of the 19th:

We learn from several persons who participated in it, that about one hundred and fifty of Gen. Floyd's men, encountered about three hundred of the 39th Kentucky Federal Regiment, under Col. Dills, at Warren's Ford, some seven miles below Prestonburg, on Thursday, the 4th inst. The enemy were driven pell-mell into the mountain with considerable loss. Our forces captured four boats laden with stores, estimated at \$300,000, and altogether in the march and fight, about 150 prisoners.

Capt. Frank Findlay, of this place, in temporary command of two companies of mounted men, was ordered to charge, but the order being immediately countermanded, the front not hearing it, Capt. Findlay and some nine or ten of his men charged, in face of the fire of the other Federal forces. The boldness of the charge alone saved them, as the enemy took to their heels as soon as they delivered their fire. Capt. Findlay received two minnie balls through his thigh, and had his horse killed under him. Floyd Bailey, son of Robert Bailey, dec'd, also had his horse shot under him, and afterwards fought on foot. Findlay Harris also of this place, received two balls through his hat, grazing the skin. Our entire loss was three killed and two or three wounded. The loss of the enemy was heavy for the number engaged, not less than thirty, and some say more than one hundred.

Capt. Findlay is now at his father's residence in this place, doing better than could be expected, after riding one hundred and thirty miles on horseback and fifty or sixty in a wagon, after being wounded.

Among the booty in the boats were five boxes of Austrian rifles, which were secured. These were supplied with as much clothing, sugar and coffee as they could carry with them, and all the balance of the stores were destroyed.

South Carolina.—The Late Battle.

The Richmond papers contain the following:

After the severe wound of Gen. Gregg was received, he sent for Gen. Jackson, with whom he had a long interview. When it was announced that the wound was considered mortal, he requested one of his aids to send several messages to different friends in South Carolina. Among others was one to Gov. Pickens, which was reported to us as follows:—

"Tell Gov. Pickens, if I am to die at this time, I yield my life cheerfully, fighting for the independence of South Carolina."

On the left, where the fighting was intensely severe, the brigade of South Carolina, commanded by Gen. Kershaw, suffered heavily. The 3d regiment of S. C. volunteers were nearly annihilated. In the early part of the engagement, the Colonel, Lt. Colonel and Major, were all wounded, and the command devolved upon the senior Captain, who was killed in fifteen minutes after assuming the command. His place was supplied by the second senior Captain, and he, too, fell mortally wounded in a very short time.

Our Loss in the Late Battle.

A correspondent of the Enquirer has obtained the following statement of our losses in the battle near Fredericksburg, from Dr. J. C. Herndon, the polite Surgeon on Gen. Lee's staff, which may be relied upon as correct:

McLaws's Division.

Barkdale's and Cobb's Brigades, 111

Summers, 1

Kershaw's, 259

Struggling cases, 6

Anderson's Division.

Wilcox's Brigade, 9

Malone's, 5

Ransom's Division.

Cook's Brigade, 295

A. P. Hill's Division, about 600

Early's and Taliaferro's commands, about 300

D. H. Hill, Washington Artillery, 23

Pickett's Division, 1,619

Hood's, 40

1,759

The most moderate estimate of the Yankee loss is 5,000 and some put it at 8,000.

A Yankee Opinion of the Virginians.

The Washington Republican praises the Virginians—even the Virginia rebels!—hear him:

If there has been any decadence of the many virtues in the Old Dominion, it is not because the present generation has proved itself weak or cowardly or unequal to the greatest emergencies. No people, with so few numbers, ever put into the field and kept there so long troops more numerous, brave, or more efficient, or produced Generals of more talent, in all the kinds and grades of military talent. It is not a worn-out and effete race, which has produced Lee, Johnston, Jackson, Ashby, and Stuart. It is not a worn-out and effete race which for eighteen months has defended its capital against the approach of an enemy close upon their borders, and outnumbering them thirty to one. It is not a worn-out and effete race which has preserved substantial popular unity under all the strain and pressure and sacrifices of this unprecedented war. "Let history" as was said of another race, "which records their unhappy fate as a people, do justice to their rude virtues as men."

They are fighting madly in a bad cause, but they are fighting bravely. They have few cowards and no traitors. The hardships of war are endured without a murmur by all classes, and the dangers of war without flinching, by the newest conscripts, while the gentry, the offshoot of their peculiar social system, have thrown themselves into the camp and field with all the dash and high spirit of the European noblesse of the middle ages, risking, without apparent concern, upon a desperate adventure, all that men value, and after a generation of peace and repose and security, which had not enervated them, presenting to their enemies a trained and intrepid front, as of men born and bred to war.

The End of the Yankee Generals.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, of the 8th inst., has the following summary of the fates of the different Yankee Generals:

Ever since the war began we have been subjected to one cause of trouble, one element of discord, which few, if any, were wise enough to prognosticate. Contentions among Generals, failures in carrying out plans and direct issues between commanders and the Government. They began with McDowell's loss of Bull Run, and Johnston's sudden departure from Winchester, while facing Patterson's army. Since then they have been far more numerous than edifying. Fremont, twice relieved of important commands, is once more en route for Washington, to "try, try again." Stone, suddenly deposed, is imprisoned. Benham, twice arrested for not having done what was expected of him on the battlefield, or doing too much, is deposed from his command and rank. McClellan is superseded by Halleck, in the supreme command. Pope, expressly ordered from the West to show his quality in Virginia, is sent, after failure from whatever cause—to the North-west to war with the savage. Sherman is relieved at Port Royal, and Hunter his successor, returns as all suppose, because his views and the President's do not agree on an important war topic. At length McClellan is ordered to report at Trenton, that is, in the land of nowhere; Fitz John Porter is brought before a court-martial on grave charges; Griffin is also to be tried, it is said Buell's conduct is subjected to rigorous inquiry; Pope's letter to Halleck, mingling signals of small account, awakens the German General's wrath, and he demands a Court of Inquiry.

Rumors have whispered that Burnside is to be superseded and implicate Gen. Meigs. These, we may hope are not true. We shall make no individual comment; let us look at the general fact—What a catalogue! To what are such troubles due? In part to the fact that when our army sprung into being, like a mysterious growth in a single night, Generals were appointed who wore the uniform, but most of them needed education; they had no experience in the great school of commanders; they were by no means equal to the task of at once handling great armies. Due allowance was made personally. I have seen more strange-looking men passing by my house, in the past two weeks, than I have seen in three months before. I can hear bugles passing at all times of the night; and if all the men now floating through the country, with military caps and convex, brass-buttoned coats, right and properly belonging to the army, if they could be sent back all together, I do not think there would be any more "fuss and feathers" for twelve months to come. Cannot I induce you through your most invaluable paper, to arouse the planters of Georgia to more diligence in these alarming times. I hope so at least.

What is a poor man to do?—cotton all burned—no salt—taxes to pay—and no chance to collect any money! But for my faith in God, I should give up. Could I have saved enough to have paid my taxes, and bought my salt, I could have gotten along finely. But as it is, I am quite at a loss what to do."

Our friend Lawson's case is certainly a hard one. The friends who have thus destroyed his property, must be incarnate ones, and traitors to the cause of the South, going about "seeking whom they may devour." The people, in country and in town, should keep a bright look out for these prowling scoundrels. They are to be found almost everywhere, with the military cap and convex buttons, wearing the livery of our brave soldiers "to serve the devil in." We are abashed by the law, and always counsel moderation, but we would, nevertheless, not hesitate to legalize the act that would summarily hang the incendiary caught in putting fire to either public or private property in these times, and we hope some such example will yet be set.

A New Yorker writing in *Forster's Magazine*, says but for the fifth wheel of an "electoral college" it is impossible to improve on the Confederate Constitution.

Admitting the theory of self-government upon which this Constitution is founded to be the best possible system for "promoting the greatest good of the greatest number," we know not where to look for anything wiser or freer in the shape of an organic instrument of government. It contains the saving element of English conservatism strained, as it were, through the hands of Washington and Hamilton, with a liberal in us on the democracy of France administered by Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. Conservative, yet elastic, it restrains without oppressing, and protects without infringing, the equal rights and liberties of an equal people. It is eminently calculated in every provision and feature to "establish justice; insure domestic tranquillity, and to secure the blessings of liberty to the present and future generations; a combination and a form of government that the proudest citizen of the Confederacy may be equally proud to administer or support—to execute or obey. *Exo perpetua.*"

Resolutions for guaranteeing the Confederate war debt before the Georgia Legislature, in accordance with the prompt and spirited example set by Alabama, and followed closely by South Carolina.

The Washington correspondent of the associated Press, on the 2d, telegraphs the following:

The Democratic representatives yesterday showed how much they were emboldened by the recent successes of that party in the North. The manner of several was decidedly imperious, and both their actions and language gave full evidence that they intended to support no measure that were not based upon the Constitution as all the Democratic President had construed it.

Rio coffee was 30 1/2 cents per lb., wholesale, in Baltimore, on the 5th ult.

A Nashville dispatch to the New York Herald says: "There is said to be 15,000 Tennesseeans in the Union army."—Nashville Dispatch.

A Chattanooga dispatch to the Best Grapevine says: "There is said to be 15,000 liars attached to the New York Herald office."

Fatal Affray.

We learn that on Monday last, at Rogersville, an altercation took place between Col. John Riley and Gen. J. G. Blynum of Hawkins county, in which the latter was shot and instantly killed. Riley, as we understand, was shot in the leg, but not seriously wounded.—Greenville Banner.

The New York Herald confessed the utter hopelessness of Burnside's operations against Richmond. It says experience has demonstrated that a large army cannot be supplied by a single railroad.—McClellan found it inadequate even from the White House to the Chickahominy. Pope's smaller force could not be fed at Warrenton. Burnside's attempt from Fredericksburg is another of these "wild goose expeditions."